

The GARZETTE

November, 1999

Volume 10, Issue 9



Happy Thanksgiving

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The GARS Executive Committee is proposing that the club bylaws be changed to amend the composition and duties of the executive committee. The current bylaws provide for five (5) officers, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Activities Manager. The proposal would change this to a committee of seven (7) officers, President, Executive Vice President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Manager, and Activities Manager. The duties of some of the positions as stated in the current bylaws would also change to reflect the addition of the new officers.

These changes are published in this edition of the club newsletter per section G.1 of the current club bylaws and will be discussed and voted on at the next club meeting on November 18. The changes will be voted upon en bloc and if adopted will become effective at the next club election in February, 2000. The current club bylaws are available on the club web site at <http://www.gars.org> and in the

file section of the club email list server site at <http://www.onelist.com>.

The proposed changes are as follows:

Section A No changes

Section B

B.2 Change Membership Chairman to Membership Manager

Application for membership shall be submitted to the Membership Manager on a special form provided for that purpose. Dues shall accompany each such application as specified in section F. of these bylaws. The Membership Manager shall act upon each application at that present club meeting or at the following club meeting. Applications approved by the Membership Manager shall be voted upon by the GARS membership at that present meeting, a majority of the members present being required for acceptance. If the voting is unfavorable, the application and dues shall be returned. A rejected applicant may reapply ninety (90) days following the rejection and this applica-

tion must be presented at a club meeting along with the recommendations of the Membership Manager.

Section C

C.1 Added Executive Vice President and Membership Manager

The officers of the GARS shall be: President, Executive Vice President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Manager, and Activities Manager.

C.3.5 Added Executive Vice President and Membership Manager

The order of election of officers shall be: President, Executive Vice President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Manager, and Activities Manager.

Section D

D.2 Revised from Vice President to Executive Vice President, added duties for processes and procedures

The Executive Vice President shall assume all the duties of the president in the absence of the president and shall be an ex officio member of all com-

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The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of *The GARZETTE* articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and to *The GARZETTE*.

The GARZETTE is created on a Pentium II-300 MHz computer using Microsoft Publisher 98 and Microsoft Office 97.

The GARZETTE is published each month with the assistance of Joe Biddle, AD4PZ and Karl Phillips, K4GZZ who interface with the printer. Larry Thill, W4LJT and Jack Herndon, WU4H do the final production work on *The GARZETTE* by folding, labeling, stamping and getting the end product to the Post Office each month. Many thanks to each of them and all article contributors.

Deadline for submissions is the 24th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For any additional information contact:

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All correspondence relating to articles posted in *The GARZETTE* or for information concerning advertising rates should be directed to the following address:

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
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Lilburn, GA 30048
Attn: Newsletter Editor



ARES Report

By Lowry Rouse, KM4Z

Hello to all and hope the upcoming holidays are bringing thoughts of family, friends and ham radio FUN to mind! Looking back at the last ten (10) months as compared to a year ago, we've enjoyed a relative quiet year as far as ARES emergencies were concerned.

This year has proven to be very exciting as far as growth for the Gwinnett ARES organization is concerned. The nets on Monday night have increased in the number of check-ins, the key leadership positions in Gwinnett ARES have been filled by very capable individuals. We were recipients of a very prestigious award from the Atlanta Metropolitan Red Cross for our participation in the tornado disaster relief last year. And lastly but certainly not least, we have been included in the Gwinnett County EMA volunteer services at long last.

Since this will be read by you after the Alford Hamfest and November ARES monthly meeting, I'll pick up from there. December 2nd is the date of our drill with Gwinnett County EMA. It will begin at 9 am and end at 12 noon. We will be using the GARS repeater 147.075 MHz+ (82.5 PL) as the main frequency. Simplex will be 146.505 MHz. The purpose of this drill is to see how we will perform with the different public services and what problems we could encounter running a net from the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) under less than perfect conditions. Since this present ARES group hasn't been involved in a real time or even a simulated disaster with county EMA services, we need to see how well we'll perform and identify any problems so they can be corrected. Remember that even though we participated in the 98



tornado disaster relief, we did so with the Red Cross, not the county EMA services. We don't have any experience working with them and makes this drill very important for us to establish a working relationship.

What I need from each ARES member is to take only 30 minutes to an hour that morning and go to the nearest Fire Station, Hospital or City Hall location and check into the net. This will confirm that we can conduct communications from the EOC to that particular location. We will probably try to work some of you simplex also to simulate the repeater being down. Not everyone of course will be near a designated location or be able to drive from work out to a site, but you may be able to take time to check into the net, establish the fact you were able to contact the EOC and be counted as a participant. Even though you will not actually be at a simulated disaster site, it will show that we have people who could go out and provide communications in the event of a real disaster. This drill will also be our yearly Simulated Emergency Test and that means

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ARES Report

By Lowry Rouse, KM4Z

(Continued from page 2)

we'll be competing with all other counties in the state for recognition in next July's **QST**. So please try and participate if only by taking a few minutes to check in the net and be logged as a participant. Please plan to attend the Dec. 14th ARES meeting as this will be the last chance we'll have before Y2K activation on Dec. 31st to finalize our operating plan.

In case that I may not have clearly stated the reason I'm volunteering the Gwinnett ARES member's time on New Years Eve, let me try to do that now. I'm not asking you to volunteer your time just to impress the EMA that we have an active ARES group in the county and gain recognition with them just to obtain a personal goal of mine. I'm asking you to do it because the community will need you in the event the county communication system goes down. People will still have heart attacks, be injured, have babies, fires, break-ins, robberies, etc., etc whether Y2K causes problems or not. Now if the local phone system is out, 800 MHz. is also out (no cell phones) how will the public get help in the event of an emergency?

Answer, by going to the nearest designated public facility and using you, the ARES Amateur Radio Operator, to relay traffic to the EOC, who will then use another ARES Amateur Radio Operator to disseminate information to proper authorities and thus the rescue procedure begins. You will be responsible along with all who participates in this activation for potentially saving lives and property of your neighbors and possibly your own family. That's what this activation is all about. Helping our community in the event of Y2K problems.

We have to be prepared ahead

of time. We can't wait until something happens before we activate and try to set-up for emergency communications on New Years Eve. We must be ready ahead of time for an operation of this size. That's the sacrifice we as ARES members, hams, community service types have to make to be sure our county is safe as possible for all residents. You are very important in the scheme of things and essential to make the plan work. So please, help the ARES on New Years Eve.

OK, enough for this month. Thanks to all who have already volunteered their time for "Y2K Eve" and don't forget that in January that Gwinnett ARES will have a table at the Tech Fest. Best Regards,

Lowry KM4Z



Random Ramblings

"It's a rare person who wants to hear what he doesn't want to hear."

-- Dick Cavett

"If God wanted us to fly, He would have given us tickets."

-- Mel Brooks

"Facts are stupid things."

-- Ronald Reagan

"Try to relax and enjoy the crisis."

-- Ashleigh Brilliant

"I like work; it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours."

-- Jerome K. Jerome



GARS

Officers

President

David Adcock, KA4KKF (770) 271-9398

Vice President

Rick Morris, KD4VOJ (770)945-5818

Secretary

Jack Herndon, WU4H (770)995-0438

Treasurer

Jeff Cutchins, KF4NBD (770) 614-8750

Activities Manager

Howie Gould, W4NVF (770)921-8362

Board Of Directors

Johnny Fearon, W4WKP (770)466-4038

Randy Drescher, K4HS (770)925-9549

Ike Chapman, KE4GYM (770)339-8123

COMMITTEES

Membership Chairman

Joe Biddle, AD4PZ (770)963-4316

Publicity Chairman

Paul Brisendine, K4HCM (770)962-5247

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Ike Chapman, KE4GYM (770)339-8123

License Trustee

Randy Drescher, K4HS (770)925-9549

Repeater Chairman

Howie Gould, W4NVF (770)921-8362

Tech Fest

Barry Zoll, N1TOQ (770)277-5175

TVI

David Schulte, KT4NK (770)923-0389

Contest Manager

Open

Net Manager

Susan Swiderski, AF4FO (770)449-0369

CW Net Manager

Gene Gach, KF4NOG (770) 925-0186

Field Day

Don Button, AJ1T (770) 476-2432

Education Coordinator

Win Jackson, N1TWX (404)869-1347

Legal Counsel

Bill Brandon, WW4BB (770)554-9998

Apparel Manager

Susan Swiderski, AF4FO (770)449-0369

Christmas Party Chairman

Tammy Sokol, (770)925-1619

Digital Radio Chairman

Open

QSL Manager

Ade Wirth, W4ADE (770)614-3743

Webmaster

Ike Chapman, KE4GYM (770)339-8123



Proposed Bylaw Changes

(Continued from page 1)

mittees and shall coordinate and maintain the documentation of processes and procedures that relate to club events, committee responsibilities, and activities.

D.3 Added Vice President, made responsible for duties of President and Executive Vice President in their absence, made responsible for ARES liaison and emergency communications

The Vice President shall assume all the duties of the executive vice president in the absence of the executive vice president and shall assume the duties of the president in the absence of the president and executive vice president. He shall be an ex officio member of all committees and shall cooperate with the ARRL Emergency Coordinator to the best of his ability, serve as the club liaison to ARES, and shall direct all GARS emergency activities.

D.5 Removed responsibility for keeping a roll of members and added to Membership Manager

The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings, carry out all correspondence, thank in writing all guest speakers and other such persons, firms, or organizations obligating to the GARS by their favors, read communications at the meetings, and shall at the end of his term turn over everything in his possession belonging to the GARS to his successor.

D.6 Added Membership Manager (previously H.2)

The Membership Manager keep a roll of members in conjunction with the Treasurer and shall carry out the functions detailed in section B.2 of these bylaws.

D.7 Removed ARES and emergency communications duties and reassigned them to VP

The Activities Manager shall be in charge of official activities of the GARS and shall appoint such assis-

tants as may be necessary to assist him in specific fields of activity.

Section E
No changes

Section F
No changes

Section G
No changes

Section H
Removed H.2 (now D.6) and renumbered remainder of section

Section I
No changes



Riddles

Submitted Anonymously

There is but one answer (sort of) to all of the following riddles

1. W V U T S R Q P O N M L
2. MICKKE MOUSE
3. What the computer programmer asked when told the buffer parameters required for the new program.
4. What the hostess asked when Danny said "Two sugars, please"

Answers:

1. Y to K
2. Y? 2K?
3. Why two K?
4. Why two Kaye?



Upcoming Meeting Programs

By Howie Gould, W4NVF

The program for the November meeting will be a presentation by Larry Thill, W4LJT; Jack Herndon, WU4H; and Joe Biddle, AD4PZ on programming some of the new rigs on the market using computer software.

The December meeting is replaced with the annual **GARS** Christmas Party and accordingly there is no program for that meeting. The party will be held on December 10th at the Holiday Inn in Suwanee and will feature the announcement of the winner of the **GARS** Ham Of The Year award. Please make your nominations to any of the club officers between now and the November meeting. All club members except for the five club officers are eligible to be considered for this award.

The first meeting on the new year in January, 2000 will feature a program by Barry Zoll, N1TOQ on the care, feeding, and selection of generators. This is a follow-up to the excellent series of articles that Barry wrote for the newsletter earlier this year.

If you have a program that you would like to present or if you have an idea for a program that you would like to see done please contact Howie Gould, W4NVF.



October Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Meeting Minutes

October 21, 1999

Officers in attendance: David Adcock, KA4KKF; Rick Morris, KD4VOJ; Jeff Cutchins, KF4NBD; Howie Gould, W4NVF

The meeting was called to order by President Adcock at 19:30 local time.

Paul, K4BET asked for volunteers to staff the **GARS** flea market table at the upcoming Alford Hamfest and passed around a sign up sheet.

Introductions of club members and visitors

The program was presented by Ned Mountain, WC4X on "HF Bicycle Mobile". Ned's presentation included computer slides, taped contacts, and his mobile equipment.

Sam Smith, N4MAP provided information on two upcoming radio orienteering events, October 30 at Cochran Park in south Fulton County and November 21 near Gay, GA. Both events are sponsored by the Georgia Orienteering Club. More information can be obtained at their web site at <http://www.mindspring.com/~sam.smith/gro> or via email to sam.smith@mindspring.com.

The minutes for the September meeting were approved as published in *The GARZETTE*.

Jeff, KF4NBD presented the treasurer's report with a current balance of \$6575.00 in the checking account. The report was accepted as presented.

Lowry, KM4Z discussed the upcoming Y2K drill ARES will be participating in with Gwinnett County on December 2 and invited all interested to attend the next ARES meeting on November 12 at Gwinnett Medical Center.

Howie, W4NVF reported on the status of the **GARS** communica-

cation system. The remote receivers for the 444.525 MHz repeater are still on track for going online by the end of the year. The output power for the 53.110 MHz repeater has been recently increased to 90 watts. Planning is underway for the addition of two more remote receiver sites for the 147.075 MHz repeater, one in the Peachtree Corners/Duluth area and the other in the area of Auburn along the Barrow/Gwinnett county line.

Rick, KD4VOJ announced the sale of tickets for the annual **GARS** Christmas Party which will be held on December 10 at the Holiday Inn in Suwanee. The tickets are on sale for \$25.00 per couple, \$15.00 per person, and \$7.50 for children under 12 and can be purchased from Anita, KG4AJX. Tickets must be bought in advance and paid for with cash or check.

Rick, KD4VOJ and Earl, AF4FG reported on the status of the Venture Crew being sponsored by **GARS**. The first meeting is set for November 9 and there is a need for adult volunteers to assist with operation. The banner used at the Sandy Creek Park special event station was displayed and will be donated to the Venture Crew.

Susan, AF4FO reminded everyone of the **GARS** apparel offerings and that a design contest is being held for the Field Day 2000 t-shirts.

Susan also asked for help in staffing the weekly club nets on the 2 meter and 6 meter repeaters and the CW practice net.

Don, AJ1T discussed the progress on planning for Field Day 2000 and asked for volunteers to work on the Field Day Committee. The committee will meet on the Tuesday following the club meetings at Central Baptist Church.

Ike, KE4GYM reported on the fund raising event from September

with the Atlanta Classic Dog Show and thanked all the volunteers that participated. The winners of the prizes for the workers were Benny, KT4VV (ICOM 2 meter mobile); Ike, KE4GYM (clock/thermometer); Manuel, KF4RLZ (HRO gift certificate); and Joe, AD4PZ (Y2K compatible repeater directory). The next fund raiser will be held on February 4, 5, and 6, 2000.

Joe, AD4PZ filling in for Membership Chairman presented three applications for membership. The applications were approved unanimously by those in attendance with David Banks, KG4EQH; Gary Leaser, KE4GHA; and Glenn Osborne becoming members of **GARS**.

President Adcock opened the floor for nominations for the office of Secretary per the special election notice posted in the club newsletter. Jack, WU4H was nominated and seconded, with no other nominations offered, President Adcock closed the nominations and asked for a vote. The vote was unanimous of those in attendance.

Joe, AD4PZ was appointed Membership Chairman by President Adcock.

Win, N1TWZ announced that the next **GARS** sponsored classes would begin on January 18, 2000 at Central Gwinnett High School.

The winners of the drawing for the monthly door prizes were Don, KA4SFG (HRO Gift Certificate); Sid, K4SID (World Radio subscription); and Rick, KD4VOJ (issue of World Radio).

The meeting was adjourned by President Adcock at 21:09 local time.



News From The League

VANITY WAITING GAME CONTINUES

The long queue of vanity call sign applications got just a little bit shorter during the month of October, but vanity processing continues at near-glacial velocity. Since the Universal Licensing System was deployed for the Amateur Service on August 16, 1999, the FCC reports it has processed 10,878 amateur applications. Of that number, just over 1000 were requests for vanity call signs. To date, there have been 494 vanity grants and 525 dismissals.

The FCC didn't resume vanity processing at all until mid-September, and then only in comparatively small test batches. Things have speeded up considerably since then--approximately 150 vanity grants were issued in the past 10 days--but there's still a lot of catching up to do. So far, the FCC has only processed vanity applications received through August 17, and as of October 28, it had not completely checked the processing run of the previous evening. All vanity applications received after July 22 will be processed via the ULS.

"We regret that this process has been a slow one," the ULS Task Force is telling applicants who inquire. "However, the Commission feels that the integrity of the vanity call sign process is a major concern and requires extensive data control during the implementation of call sign assignment in the new ULS environment." The FCC says it will continue processing in a "verification mode," and will resume routine vanity processing once it has "ensured the integrity of the vanity program."

The ULS Task Force has offered some tips to those submitting vanity call sign requests via the ULS. Vanity applicants only must

complete Schedule D for Form 605. When requesting a vanity call sign, applicants should answer "no" to Item 1 ("Is this a request to change a station call sign systematically?"). The Task Force concedes this might seem confusing or contradictory, but says the question only relates to a request for a "systematic" or "sequential" call sign and has nothing to do with vanity.

Item 2, Application Purpose, on Form 605 is another point of confusion. The FCC says vanity applications should indicate "MD" ("Modification") for this item. "This is not very clear in the instructions," a Task Force spokesperson allowed. Those filing to change name, address, telephone number, fax number, or e-mail address should indicate "AU" ("Administrative Update") in Item 2, the Task Force said. The main exception would be someone changing their address and also requesting a systematic, or sequential, call sign change--such as someone moving from one call district to another. In that case, the Task Force says, the applicant should indicate "MD" (for "Modification"), then check "yes" for Item 1 on Schedule D.

A ULS spokesperson remained optimistic that vanity processing would "move along faster in the next couple of weeks."

NEW ENFORCEMENT AND CONSUMER INFORMATION BUREAUS OFFICIAL

It's now official! The FCC will create two new bureaus--the Enforcement Bureau and the Consumer Information Bureau--effective November 8. FCC Chairman William Kennard made the announcement during testimony October 26 before the House Telecommunications Subcommittee on the FCC's

Five-Year Strategic Plan.

"Our decision to establish bureaus devoted exclusively to enforcement and consumer information signals the enormous importance of these functions in our transition from an industry regulator to a market facilitator," Kennard said. "This reorganization is the first step in a larger effort to streamline and modernize the FCC."

As expected, FCC Deputy General Counsel David H. Solomon was named to head the Enforcement Bureau. The new bureau will consolidate enforcement functions --including amateur--and personnel from the Commission's existing Common Carrier, Mass Media, Wireless Telecommunications and Compliance and Information Bureaus. Solomon has been Deputy General Counsel since 1994.

Current FCC Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, says he hopes the reorganization eventually will permit him to increase the amount of time he's able to devote to Amateur Radio enforcement. Hollingsworth will get a new title as part of the reorganization: Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement.

In a surprise move, Kennard announced his intention to name Lorraine C. Miller to be Bureau Chief of the new Consumer Information Bureau. Miller now directs the Office of Congressional Relations at the Federal Trade Commission. Current Compliance and Information Bureau Chief Richard Lee had been expected to become the new CIB chief. Instead, Lee has been appointed

Senior Director of Licensing Analysis in the Chairman's office. In that role, he'll advise the FCC on consolidating licensing functions across the agency.

The new CIB will consolidate
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News From The League

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the FCC's Gettysburg Call Center (to be renamed the Consumer Center) as well as staff from various bureaus who handle consumer complaints and public information requests.

Hollingsworth has agreed to be detailed from the new Enforcement Bureau to the new Consumer Information Bureau to handle the Consumer Center at Gettysburg after the new bureaus become effective November 8. The temporary duty will last four to six weeks. Hollingsworth says Amateur Radio enforcement will be his priority, and, by agreement between the two bureaus, amateur enforcement will continue at its present pace. Hollingsworth's current duties also include Land Mobile Service enforcement.

For more details on the reorganization plan, visit <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Miscellaneous/News Releases/1999/nrmc9072.html> --FCC news release

ISS FLIGHTS RESET

NASA now says the space shuttle Atlantis flight--mission STS-101--that will carry the initial Amateur Radio gear into space for the International Space Station will launch no earlier than February 10, 2000.

The flight transporting the VHF and UHF hand-held transceivers and associated antennas and accessories to the ISS had been scheduled to launch in December. NASA imposed a shuttle launch hiatus to perform electrical inspections of the entire shuttle fleet, however, disrupting the launch schedule. The inspections came in the wake of problems during the July launch of the shuttle Columbia,

when astronauts and ground controllers struggled with power failures in computers controlling two of the orbiter's three main engines.

"Our number one priority for the space shuttle is to fly safely, and that is why we delayed our launch preparations and have performed comprehensive wiring inspections and repairs," Space Shuttle Program Manager Ron Dittemore said.

NASA and Russian space agency officials also have agreed to delay the launch of the Zvezda service module that will house the amateur gear. According to NASA, a US delegation and the Russians agreed that "it is no longer prudent to proceed with the current service module schedule." The new projected launch window is between December 26 and January 16.

In August, key antenna hardware for the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station project headed for NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center to undergo integration and flight qualification testing. The initial ham gear will support amateur operation from the ISS on voice and AFSK packet on 2 meters and 70 cm.

For more information on ARISS, visit <http://garc.gsfc.nasa.gov/~ariss/ariss.html>.

HURRICANE WATCH NET GETS SURPRISE CHECK-IN

The Hurricane Watch Net got a surprise check-in October 20 as it activated on 14.325 MHz to track the course of Hurricane Jose.

"Riley Hollingsworth checked in to tell us that they were monitoring and would handle any interference problems," said Hurricane Watch Net Manager Jerry Herman, N3BDW. "Needless to say, the little bit of interference we were getting almost immediately ceased. His call sign and his presence on frequency had a positive effect."

Hollingsworth--who's K4ZDH--was equally impressed. "Those guys did a wonderful job," he said.

"I was very impressed and very proud!"

While Jose was still a hurricane, the Hurricane Watch Net had been taking reports from stations in the track of the storm, and transmitting advisories. Hurricane Watch Net participants file real-time storm and weather data, which is relayed to forecasters via W4EHW at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. Herman said things got up close and personal for one of the W4EHW operators during Hurricane Irene earlier this month. "Julio Ripoll, WD4JNS, reported that flooding in the Miami area was the worst he had seen in 17 years," he said. "Julio had to drive through water two feet deep to get to and from the National Hurricane Center in order to operate W4EHW." At one point, Herman said, Ripoll--the assistant W4EHW coordinator--waded through knee-deep water to assist a stranded motorist.

Herman says the Hurricane Watch Net has had a very good season so far. "Probably the majority of our reports are measured data, and that's something the guys at the Hurricane Center really appreciate," he said. Herman speculated that more hams now own home weather stations that allow them to provide precise weather data at their location to the Net.

Overall Net participation this hurricane season has been excellent too, Herman said. "I'm real pleased with the way it's been going, and the people in Miami seem to be using the data--they keep asking us for more--and we'll keep trying to get more for them."

The current hurricane season runs through November.

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My Start In Ham Radio

By Frank Sauciunas, KF4TQV

Almost 40 years ago when I was a young teenager, I met Jerome (K9GRH), an Amateur Radio Operator. Jerome invited me to see his radio shack in the basement of his parent's home in Chicago. When I entered his ham shack, my eyes nearly fell out of my head when I saw all his electronic equipment. Jerome got on his radio and called out a CQ. After he made contact, he let me get on the radio to say hello. I was hooked! Jerome was also a pioneer in amateur TV and when he showed me what he was working on in amateur TV, I was totally amazed. After that experience, I bought a book on how to become an amateur radio operator. Being a teenager, I quickly discovered that vacuum tube theory was way over my head and put amateur radio on a back burner. As a teenager, I had many other priorities like school, girls, motorcycles, girls, sports, girls, etc. I also learned about Citizen Band Radio and bought a used vacuum tube Lincoln CB radio at a flea market for a few bucks and applied for a Citizen Band license. Back then, CB radio was great until it started to become popular. That is when I lost interest in CB radio.

I went on to college and got my degree in electronics engineering. From that time, my entire 28-year career has been in the computer industry. For the last 16 years I have been a remote technical support engineer for Data General and IBM. For years I had forgotten about amateur radio until I was surfing the Internet and read about a Technician class license that did not require Morse code. I also found practice written exams on the Internet for Novice and Technician. I took the test and was surprised to find that I was just 1 or 2 questions away from passing. I bought a book by Gordon West and studied for the

Novice and Technician tests. Two years ago I took the written tests and passed them both with only a months worth of study. Last month I passed the 5 wpm code test and advanced to Technician Plus after studying Morse code for just two months.

Last year when the tornadoes came through the Atlanta area, I grabbed my 2-meter HT and had the family go to lowest part of the house. We were listening to the weather spotters on the radio when heard someone report "The tornado is at my house." Early this year, my daughter remembered this when a bad storm came through after I left for work. She turned on my HT and listened to the weather spotters as she drove to college. When I came home from work, she wanted to know how to become a Ham. I handed her the Gordon West Technician No-Code book and said this is what you need to know in order to pass the written exams. She has been studying for the Technician exams as time permits since her college studies come first. Now she found out there are scholarships for college students with an amateur radio license.

Frank Sauciunas
KF4TQV



Random Ramblings

"I believe in looking reality straight in the eye and denying it."

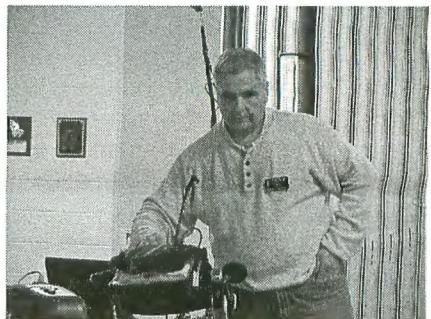
-- Garrison Keillor

"Hindsight is always twenty-twenty."

-- Billy Wilder



GARS Views



Ned, WC4X demonstrates his gear for bicycle mobile HF contacts.



Earl, AF4FG and David, KA4KKF display the banner used at Sandy Creek Park for the K2BSA special event station.



Goldberg or GARS VP? You decide!

Random Ramblings

"I'd give my right arm to be ambidextrous."

-- Graffiti

"Nobody realizes that some people expend tremendous energy merely to be normal."

-- Albert Camus

"I always wanted to be somebody, but I should have been more specific."

-- Lily Tomlin

"When you go into court you are putting your fate into the hands of twelve people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty."

-- Norm Crosby

"Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards."

-- Soren Kierkegaard

"Nobody believes the official spokesman... but everybody trusts an unidentified source."

-- Ron Nesen

"Truth is more of a stranger than fiction."

-- Mark Twain

"It's hard to be nostalgic when you can't remember anything."

-- Unknown

"Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana."

-- Lisa Grossman

"Genius may have its limitations, but stupidity is not thus handicapped."

-- Elbert Hubbard

"I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts."

-- Will Rogers

❖❖❖

Hiking With An HT

By Earl Whatley, AF4FG



When backpacking, you feel every ounce as you hike up the first hill and every article or book on the subject encourages you to pack only what you need. Some purists go so far as to cut the handle off their toothbrush and pull out half of the bristles. They remove the wrappers from their granola bars and count every grain of rice in each meal. They wouldn't think of carrying a Walkman much less an HT, but I can't imagine hiking without mine.

There's hardly a spot in the Southeast where you can't reach some repeater from a hilltop and in most cases you can reach several. On a recent hike on the Appalachian Trail in North Carolina I chatted with hams on three different repeaters (including GARS) from a campsite located in a gap between some very large hills. Current weather reports are easy to get and I often get helpful reports on trail conditions.

On our annual 50 mile hike along the AT this July I used the HT each evening to see which repeater was reachable in case of an emergency and the Scouts couldn't believe that we could hear GARS from the Smokies. Three watts wasn't enough to make contact with home, but we did talk to hams in Knoxville on the same frequency.

On the fourth day, after 16 hours of hard and continuous rain, we had a problem. Hiking the trail was like walking in a stream. Everything was slippery and distances that could normally be hiked in an hour took as long as three. After six miles one of the adults realized that four more miles would tax him beyond his ability. Two boys had

their sleeping bags and all their clothes soaked and one was badly chaffed. It was still raining (it rained for another 14 hours) and the cool temperatures made hypothermia a real possibility. Rather than risk an emergency later we decided to pull off where the trail crossed a highway.

When I used my HT, Allen Garver,

KE4PTQ responded immediately and offered to help before I asked. He and Doris Hudson, KE4RRX were waiting at the road with hot coffee and hot chocolate when the scouts came out of the woods. They had a station wagon and a pick up truck and gladly offered ride to our cars. Without the HT, two of the adults would have had to thumb a ride 30 miles along three different roads, pick up the cars and drive back to pick up the rest of the party. And who wants to pick up two soaking wet, unshaven men on a mountain road? We might still be there.

It doesn't matter if weighs more than two meals and a trail stove, the HT and extra batteries go in my backpack on every trip, and at least one other adult in the troop has vowed to have a license and an HT before next year's hike. I may have to brush my teeth with my finger, cut the labels off my clothes and trim the brim of my hat to save weight but the HT is worth every ounce.

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Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

First Tuesday

Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers

Old Hickory House

5490 Chamblee/Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody
Dutch dinner is at 6:30 PM, followed by meeting.
Talk In 145.410(-)

Kennehoochee ARC

First United Methodist Church in Marietta
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM
Talk In 146.880(-)

First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club

American Red Cross Building, Lindberg Plaza
Meeting is at 7:30 PM
Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

Jefferson Civic Center
Off of Memorial Dr. toward Winder from Jefferson
son
Meeting is at 6:30 PM
Talk In - 147.225(+)

Second Wednesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Ryan's Steak House
Alpharetta Highway (Hwy 9), Alpharetta
Dinner at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 145.47(-)

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club

Killian Hall, Killian Hill Road
Lilburn
Dinner at 6:00 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 146.760(-)

Second Saturday

East Atlanta LAN

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
Dunwoody
Meeting is at 10:00 AM
Talk In - 145.410(-) and 443.025(+)

Third THURSDAY



Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Central Baptist Church
Gwinnett Drive
Lawrenceville

Meeting begins at 7:30 PM in the fellowship hall.
Talk In -147.075(+) and 444.525(+)

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Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta area VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

First Sunday

WCARS VEC

2:00 PM

(Except July and September)

Johnson High School

3305 Poplar Springs RD, Gainsville
Terry Jones, W4TL (770)967-6364

First Saturday

9:00AM

Clayton County Emergency
Management Building

7496 N. McDonough St., Jonesboro
George White, KN4NG (770)361-6850

Second Tuesday

7:00PM

Walton EMC

3645 Lenora Church Rd, Snellville
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA
(770)498-7759

Second Saturday

CA VEC

8:30 AM

Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain St.
Stone Mountain
Hal Martin, KI4RD
(770)978-9160

Third Saturday

CA VEC

9:00AM

Marietta First United Methodist Church
Room 305, 56 Whitlock Ave
Marietta
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ
(770)955-3171

Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC

7:00 PM

United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK
(770)942-6466.

Fourth Friday

W5YI VEC

7:00 PM

St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Road
Lilburn
Headphones Provided!
Howie Gould, W4NVF
(770)921-8362

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82.5 PL

Main Repeater Site
Oak Street, Lawrenceville

2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz
82.5 PL

Main Repeater Site
Oak Street, Lawrenceville

Backup Repeater Site
Lanier Mountain, Snellville

Remote Receive Sites
Bogan Road, Buford

Goshen Springs Road, Norcross
Lanier Mountain, Snellville

70 Cm Repeater

444.525(+) MHz
82.5 PL

Main Repeater Site
Lanier Mountain, Snellville

Remote Receive Sites
Under construction

Bogan Road, Buford
Goshen Springs Road, Norcross

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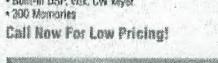
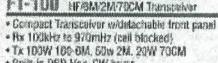
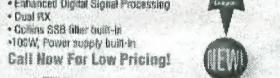
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The President's Pen

By David Adcock, KA4KKF

This is November and the weather is great. Cool nights and warm days are the order of the day. Everyone is getting ready for the Alfred Hamfest. Hope to see you there. The Club is moving along with improving the repeater systems. The little things are being done. Shack maintenance and cleanup of the shacks, etc. If you want to help, please contact W4NVF or NY4F or WD4JEM or W5NNH and volunteer. If you want to learn about the operation and maintenance of the systems, get involved.

Thanksgiving is coming up fast and before you know it Christmas. I'm very thankful for being part of this Club. Serving as your President has given me the opportunity to meet a lot of great people in the Club and a lot from other clubs. You

have to experience this job to really understand what goes on behind the scenes. There are good times and not so good times, but the good times outweigh the not so good. I'm enjoying this so much; I'm running for the position again next year. The executive committee meets every second Monday of the month, come by and see us. I'm very thankful for the people that made this a great Club. We have had a rough year for volunteers, but the Club came through and we are moving forward. A big THANK YOU goes out to everyone who has help make all events run smoothly.

At the meeting this month, you will be called upon to vote for a new bylaw change. The bylaw changes are described in this newsletter. Please read them and come to the meeting and vote how you feel

about them. The executive committee felt this was the time to make these changes for the club. We had a tough debate on this and it wasn't unanimous, but you the Club gets to vote on this issue. I hope you will turn out and vote. Remember, if you don't vote don't complain.

The December meeting will be our annual Christmas Party. I hope to see you there on December 10th. Don't forget to get your tickets at the November meeting; there will be a limited number at the door.

In closing this month, don't forget that the Techfest is coming up in January. If you want more info on the event, see N1TOQ.

73 and have a great Thanksgiving holiday.

David
KA4KKF